
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1337

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By House Committee on Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Kenney, Skinner, Hunter, Priest, Darneille, Ericks, Pettigrew, Hankins, Lantz, Fromhold, Walsh, Williams, Kessler, Haler, Morrell, Barlow, McCoy, Appleton, Ormsby, Springer, Campbell, Moeller, Lovick, Rolfes, Hasegawa, Flannigan, Hudgins, Hunt, Green, Chase, Dunshee, Simpson, Roberts, O'Brien, Rodne, Dickerson, Quall, Goodman, Linville, Hurst, Santos and Wallace)

READ FIRST TIME 02/26/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to insurance coverage for colorectal cancer early
2 detection; and adding a new section to chapter 48.43 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 48.43 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) Health plans issued or renewed on or after July 1, 2008, must
7 provide benefits or coverage for colorectal cancer examinations and
8 laboratory tests consistent with the guidelines or recommendations of
9 the United States preventive services task force or the federal centers
10 for disease control and prevention. Benefits or coverage must be
11 provided:

12 (a) For any of the colorectal screening examinations and tests in
13 the selected guidelines or recommendations, at a frequency identified
14 in such guidelines or recommendations, as deemed appropriate by the
15 patient's physician after consultation with the patient; and

16 (b) To a covered individual who is:

17 (i) At least fifty years old; or

18 (ii) Less than fifty years old and at high risk or very high risk
19 for colorectal cancer according to such guidelines or recommendations.

1 (2) To encourage colorectal cancer screenings, patients and health
2 care providers must not be required to meet burdensome criteria or
3 overcome significant obstacles to secure such coverage. An individual
4 may not be required to pay an additional deductible or coinsurance for
5 testing that is greater than an annual deductible or coinsurance
6 established for similar benefits. If the health plan does not cover a
7 similar benefit, a deductible or coinsurance may not be set at a level
8 that materially diminishes the value of the colorectal cancer benefit
9 required.

10 (3)(a) A health carrier is not required under this section to
11 provide for a referral to a nonparticipating health care provider,
12 unless the carrier does not have an appropriate health care provider
13 that is available and accessible to administer the screening exam and
14 that is a participating health care provider with respect to such
15 treatment.

16 (b) If a health carrier refers an individual to a nonparticipating
17 health care provider pursuant to this section, screening exam services
18 or resulting treatment, if any, must be provided at no additional cost
19 to the individual beyond what the individual would otherwise pay for
20 services provided by a participating health care provider.

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